

TOC H JOURNAL

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Communications for next month must reach the Editor not later than the 15th of this month.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

God save the King ! His peoples plead
With the old words in urgent need—
Accustomed words, so brief, so few
To-day heart-searching, potent, new.
Of Thy great mercy, Lord, make speed
To save our gracious King, give heed
While for his life we intercede—
Uphold him and with strength endue—
God save the King !

Diverse we are in race and creed,
Now in one common prayer agreed—
Our common love we hardly knew.
To his great office greatly true,
He holds our hearts, he reigns indeed—
God save the King !

The verses above, which express the feeling in all our hearts at this time, appeared in the *Times* of December 8, over the signature "Isabel Adami": they were written by the wife of a well-known Toc H member. They are here reprinted by the courtesy of the *Times*.

The *Times* of December 10, describing the scene outside Buckingham Palace, noted that "the gathering on Saturday was a large one, swollen by a number of Toc H members who had travelled long distances to attend the Birthday Festival of their organisation." From the Guest-night in the Albert Hall that evening the following message was dispatched to the Palace:—"The family of Toc H assembled for their Birthday Festival in the Royal Albert Hall express their loyal and affectionate greetings to His Majesty the King and desire to convey their deepest sympathy and earnest and sincere prayers for his complete recovery." The following telegram was received from Her Majesty the Queen and was read to the audience amid loud applause:—"The Queen sincerely thanks the family of Toc H assembled for their Birthday Festival for their loyal and affectionate greeting to the King, who will much appreciate this kind thought of him in his illness." Lord Forster, from the chair, added: "You will wish to add your prayers for the King and Queen and their family, who have won all hearts by the simplicity and sincerity of their lives, which have ever been devoted to the service of their people."

A message had also been sent to greet H.R.H. the Patron at Brindisi on his homeward journey, and a reply was received from him at the Guest-night on Wednesday, December 12, regretting that he could not be present.

COMRADESHIP AND PEACE

An Address by Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson, late Chief of the Imperial General Staff, at the Birthday Festival of Toc H Branch, Colwyn Bay, 18th November, 1928.

COMRADESHIP—the subject about which I am asked to say a few words this evening—plays a very important part in all human endeavours, and indeed in human happiness, while loneliness is one of life's greatest trials and handicaps. There are times when it is well to be alone, but the “herd instinct” acquired by us long ago in the early stages of prehistoric man's development is still strong in our nature, and most men and women are sociable beings who cannot do their best, and are not at their best, without the sympathy and companionship of their fellows. The truth of this is, of course, fully realised by all members of Toc H, since the creation and cultivation of true fellowship are the main objects which the Association is designed to fulfil, and therefore instead of dwelling upon the benefits to be derived from it, I shall confine my observations to suggesting certain directions in which the services of Toc H seem to be most required and may be of special value.

There are three ways of looking at life. To some this life is everything, and, whether they believe theoretically in a life after death or not, practically they ignore it. To others the future life is all-important and our present existence nothing. Surely both are wrong. No doubt so far as *length* is concerned, time is nothing compared to eternity, but, on the other hand, and whatever view we may take, the future depends on the present and therefore it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of our time now. We may be, and are, supremely ignorant of what the future has in store, but at any rate we know, as regards the present, that we ought to take our full share in trying to make the world more like the world which the Creator desires and intends that it should be. This is practically the duty which members of Toc H pledge themselves to carry out, especially in regard to the upbringing of young men and young women.

The saddest feature of the war was the sacrifice of young lives, and Toc H is to be highly commended for the splendid work it is doing to keep our boys on the right road.

Another direction in which Toc H can render useful service is in connection with the preservation of peace. People smile when mention is made of disarmament, and argue that there has always been war and always will be so long as human nature remains what it is. To my mind that is a stupid thing to say. It is not so many hundreds of years since there were constant wars between Wales and England, between Scotland and England, and between different parts of England itself, and I imagine that people then argued that the same state of affairs would continue.

During the last 200 years there has been constant competition in armaments and constant wars between the nations of Europe, and at last practically the whole world engaged in conflict, with the result we know only too well. We ourselves had 1,000,000 men killed; our artillery bombardments in three battles in France

in 1917, and before a single man went over the top, cost us for ammunition alone well over £50,000,000, while in one of these battles the weight of the ammunition amounted to nearly half a million tons. Taking all the belligerents together, some 10,000,000 men were killed, at least double that number were wounded, and some, £40,000,000,000 was expended in direct costs, to say nothing of indirect costs, which probably amounted to an equal sum.

When we think of this appalling waste of life and wealth, of the horrors of air attacks and chemical warfare, and of the other miseries that modern inventions might cause in the next war, it does indeed seem to be time for all right-minded men and women whole-heartedly to devote themselves to the prevention of further war.

Exactly how disarmament can be accelerated and peace made more secure is no doubt a difficult problem to solve. It must necessarily take time, and probably be attended by many failures, but that should not deter us from trying to achieve it, and from insisting upon some better way being found for composing international differences than by the costly policy hitherto pursued.

These views may possibly seem a little strange as coming from me, but I can only say that, after more than 40 years' experience in the theory and practice of war, the only conclusions I can reach are that war seldom settles anything ; that preparations for it are more likely to precipitate than to prevent war ; and that it is not only futile in itself, but in its consequences is almost as disastrous for the victor as the vanquished.

It is for these reasons that I have suggested it is the duty of everybody to do their utmost to see that peace shall not again be hastily broken. What is needed is that less suspicion and a more generous Christian spirit should pervade international intercourse amongst the nations. To ensure this essential change no organisation seems better adapted than the admirable society of Toc H.

THE JOB OF THE POOR MAN'S LAWYER

SIR EDWARD PARRY, who sat as a County Court Judge for 33 years, has recently written a book "The Gospel and the Law," and in that book he has quoted an epigram attributed to Lord Darling—"Law is open to all—like the Ritz Hotel." In theory everyone has a right to the benefits of the law ; in practice many have not the means to pay for the necessary assistance. This is the problem which the Poor Man's Lawyer is facing.

There are two branches of legal aid—advice and assistance in court. There can be no doubt that those who cannot afford to consult a solicitor in the ordinary way often need advice on matters of law. They need such advice perhaps more than those who have means. Questions as to rent or the possession of rooms under the Rent Acts and claims for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Acts are matters which principally affect the poor ; but they are matters also which are often of the greatest difficulty even for a lawyer. Moreover, uneducated people need more assistance in legal and semi-legal matters than those

who are better educated. It is true that anyone can go to the police magistrates for advice ; but many dislike the publicity of such an application, and more are unable to explain their difficulties in a public court. Moreover, the magistrate has only a limited amount of time to devote to giving such assistance and is unable to go into complicated matters, however willing he may be to do so. It is found, in fact, that magistrates are often glad to be able to send people to Poor Man's Lawyers for advice. There can be no doubt of the need.

Some of the work which a Poor Man's Lawyer can do is worth considering. In the first place, he does not merely advise one party in his contentions against another party ; he is often a peacemaker. In numbers of cases people who come to a Poor Man's Lawyer merely want to know what their rights are. They may come wrongly believing, or suspecting, that advantage is being taken of them, that they are being charged excessive rent, for example. When the position is explained to them they are satisfied. If no explanation were given to these people they would think they had a grievance which could not be put right or they might embark on useless litigation. The Poor Man's Lawyer is often able in this way to remove a feeling of suspicion or bitterness—a feeling which is the cause of much of the present social unrest. It is therefore of the greatest importance that everyone should be able to ascertain what his rights are ; and it is only through the Poor Man's Lawyer that most people are able to do so.

Secondly, it is the experience of Poor Man's Lawyers that some people try to take advantage of the ignorance of others. For example, letters are often sent by landlords demanding possession of rooms with threats of proceedings, when the landlords have not the vestige of a claim. When the tenant is able to obtain advice and replies in a way which makes it obvious that he understands his position or is being advised, in many cases nothing more is heard of such claims. But where the tenant is ignorant and unable to obtain advice, he is often frightened by the threat of proceedings into compliance, though he may realise that he is being unfairly treated. Poor landlords—and there are many poor landlords—sometimes need similar assistance.

Thirdly, it is found that when a poor person has a good claim, his chances of obtaining satisfaction without recourse to the courts is very much greater when the demand is made by a solicitor than when the demand is only made by the person himself.

These are but examples of the need of the poor for advice on legal and semi-legal matters. It is only the Poor Man's Lawyer who can meet the need. There are now a number of Poor Man's Lawyers working in different parts of London and in provincial towns—some at settlements, others in connection with different social welfare organisations, and others in connection with the political Parties. The last is a new development, the benefits of which may be a matter of controversy. But there are not as many Poor Man's Lawyers as are required—in many parts of London alone there is no Poor Man's Lawyer.

As to the organisation of a centre for giving advice to poor persons, all that is required is two rooms—one for interviewing applicants and one for a waiting-

room—and one or more barristers or solicitors, probably solicitors, willing to give an hour or two one evening a week. Additional lay help can also be of great advantage. It is often found that if a person of tact can go and see the other party, an arrangement can be made to give the applicant relief, or a dispute can be settled. Often the remedy is not a matter of law at all. The Poor Man's Lawyer's help is sought in every conceivable difficulty ; he is asked if he can find work or rooms ; he hears many hard cases which the law cannot remedy. It is of great advantage if he can refer these applicants to social workers, who can go into the difficulties and give what help can be given. Again, the lawyer can be relieved of the investigation of an applicant's means. It must be remembered that these are poor solicitors, and people should not be helped who can afford to go to a solicitor.

There remains the question of assistance in court. Only a very small proportion—not 5 per cent.—of the people who come to a Poor Man's Lawyer need such assistance, but some do. When the Poor Man's Lawyer advises that proceedings should be instituted or defended, what can be done? Some cases are quite simple, and some people can conduct their own case after having been given advice. But many people are quite unable to understand their own case and to put the simplest case before the court properly. Many people have no idea of what is relevant and omit to tell the court facts that are most material to their case. It is not an unusual occurrence for people to come to the Poor Man's Lawyer after a case has been lost and for him to discover that most material facts were not put before the court. Moreover, some cases could not be put before the court adequately by anyone who has not a knowledge of law.

Provision is made by the State, through the Law Society, for taking up poor persons' cases in the High Court ; but, except for divorces, poor people are seldom concerned with High Court cases. The County Court and the Police Court are the poor persons' courts, and in the County Court and in civil cases in the Police Court no official provision is made for the assistance of poor persons. If this need is to be met, it must therefore be met by voluntary organisations. A few of the settlements can arrange for cases recommended by their Poor Man's Lawyer to be taken up. In addition a Roman Catholic Society was formed for the purpose of taking up cases for the poor about two years ago, and is doing most useful work. But more is required. The Central Legal Aid Committee appointed by the London Council of Social Service and the London Council of Poor Man's Lawyers is attempting to meet this need. It is now engaged in setting up an organisation to take up for poor persons civil cases in the County Courts and the Police Courts recommended by London Poor Man's Lawyers. It is hoped that this organisation will actually be working in the course of the next few weeks ; but to enable it to develop and to meet the great need, it will require more assistance, in particular assistance from more solicitors who will take up a limited number of cases, and financial assistance. It is hoped from this start an organisation will grow which will be able to do for poor persons in need of legal aid what the hospitals do for poor persons in need of medical aid.

BERNARD F. MENDEL.

THE PILOT PUTS IT ACROSS

THOSE to whom the inner workings of Toc H are little known will make a better fist of what here follows if they permit themselves to be informed of the conditions that it takes for granted.

At the Staff Conference in 1926, it was agreed that in every Branch and Group a member should be set aside to occupy a new post—that of Pilot, and that the Pilot's duty should be to act as the special steward of the story and spirit of Toc H ; thus reinforcing in the common mind the principles and outlook that the Jobmaster must take more or less for granted. The Jobmaster as the chosen skipper of the collective activity of the Team towards the needs of the neighbourhood, has little time for metaphysical discussions. Yet, to starve the intelligence, to presume a heedlessness that is prepared to spend itself in unreflecting work, is poor friendship in the long run ; for the task of Toc H is far-reaching and will never be attained by sheltering mental indolence under the cloak of shallow activity. "Unquestioning obedience" is heroic as a phrase ; but a mind denied its right of enquiry will desert or revolt. Moreover, since Toc H must be spread by its working members, each must be equipped to stand alone as an ambassador, qualified to give a modest and reasonable account of the Movement. The permanent portent of the "gift of tongues" was surely that the gift—and responsibility—of explanation was conferred upon the whole body. They would no doubt retain the special spokesman for the special occasions, but the most junior member would feel himself accredited and empowered. Each was also made aware that his special horizon and training might bring conviction to this man or that ; his very limitations might prove the means whereby some other feet might find the way. No one man to-day can well attempt to be all things to all men, and the remedy surely is to equip every member to begin where he is in daily life, seeking with a shy conviction to give other men their answer on the spot ; for questions are winged creatures, and will not wait their flight until Mr. Winkle's gun is ready to go off against them. Those who would bring them down need training and advice, and the Pilot's talks must help them there.

But hesitancy may well lie nearer home. Toc H would have little right to count itself a student of the rising age if it failed to realise that the gap between senior and junior men to-day is indeed profound. To have been born in an era that preceded petrol, to be caught concerned with cavalry, to remember, however faintly, the Duke of Cambridge or the Duke of Clarence, to have been patted on the head by Gladstone or Joseph Chamberlain, according to the faith of our forebears—consigns us to a background remote from the heroes and heroines of the new dispensation. Autumn in Nature may be lovely indeed, but the last century model cannot even claim a place at the bottom of the scrap-heap. The contrivances which expedite life to-day and threaten to intensify the speed to-morrow are still in their 'teen age, and are themselves threatened with obsolescence. Life is as a stage whereon the principal Persons are being continually superseded by their understudies. As these last make their bows they

can already see their successors preening themselves in the wings. Their predecessors retire with an ill grace to the chorus and thence in due course descend to the crowd, who throng the hinder part of the stage. Here is the only place for over-forty, and to prompt the down-stage Persons thence requires no small temerity.

Let the Pilot's age be what it may, his task is delicate enough. Again and again he will be the first grown man—apart from School and Church—with whom the Junior talks seriously. This is astonishingly useful to both men, and must not be hurried or codified. The object of these ensuing articles is therefore to enhance the analogy of the compass and to develop the Four Points into a full-grown parable.

1. *The Points of the Compass*

SCENE : *A Toc H Club-room, looking therefore more like a queer sort of workshop than a poor sort of lounge.* There is a cumbrous wooden settle, with a boarded back full six feet high, no longer fashionable in village inns ; and three seductive if unsaleable easy chairs, all grouped round an open brick fireplace, where some logs—the Rovers' contribution—are gleaming like the burnished mirrors of a mesmerist. The mantelpiece has been broadened, and holds against a dark panel—purchased for a shilling from a friendly cottage near last summer's camp—the Lamp of Maintenance, reposing upon its Plaque-case. A fresh taper stands erect beside it ready for next week's meeting. Above the Lamp is a framed print of the Upper Room in Poperinghe, and on each side of this the photographs of an officer and corporal smile down upon all sound conversations and activities. These have been reinforced in 1925 by a sketch of old blind Charlie, of the local St. Dunstan's, and in 1927 by young Jim, who went after a nipper in a nasty tide.

By the unlocked bookshelf in the further corner, the PILOT, who is also in charge of that picked assortment of workaday wisdom, is standing, dipping deliberately into early bound volumes of the JOURNAL. A moment later, the door opens, and two younger men, neither of them yet with badge or tie, come in. They are two of the OUTER GUARD, who since a Guest-night two months ago, have been to most meetings, and were apprenticed by the Jobmaster to the section busy with Borstal Boys. They have also had four fortnightly rounds with the Pilot, who has grounded them in—

1. How Toc H began : 1915-1919.
2. How it was born again : 1919-1922.
3. How it swam the seas : 1922-1928.
4. Where you come in : The Movement's local history and hopes and weaknesses.

Pilot : What ! overtime again ? I only wish our firm had some. Things are awfully quiet in our line of country. You'll have to teach me Toc H soon, for it is mighty hard to watch the queue of men "stood off" and still to "disown discouragement." However, I am old fashioned enough to believe that dogged does it, and that the world hasn't heard the last of English Industry.

Anyhow, we can't do better than get on with our job : and our job to-night is *The Compass*. Sit down somewhere, will you ? Oh ! I forgot. Your generation doesn't seat itself. It either perches or crashes. Well, come to anchor round the fire. Now, where was I ?

Gog : You tee'd off last time with the story of the show here : how the first bunch crawled together and held on by their eyelids, without knowing what, how, why, or where to begin. A fairly good effort it sounded.

Magog : Then you said we hadn't got far yet ; and that all big things were little once. You could always test the worthwhileness of a thing by imagining it grown to its full extent, and seeing in the mind's eye what difference it would really make. Then we went on to think of Toc H really extended in Smoketown, members in every works, twenty groups instead of two, a couple of Marks buzzing along, a wholetime Jobmaster and Padre ; all like a good stout jack put under the general attitude of a fellow. It sounded a tall order, but I have been browsing on it these last few days, and it doesn't seem as absurd as it did. Things do catch on—look at old Havelock Wilson's results now, after years of "doing nothing."

Pilot : Well, to-night I am going to settle down to a dull disquisition on the contents of Toc H. I don't somehow think that you will find it dull—you're too keen. But I am not going to hunt for humour with which to wash it down. The old rules of course. Interrupt when you want to ; that's the point of the Pilot's job. Otherwise you might as well read the thing.

You remember when you signed your nomination form that you signed on to four clauses called "The Four Points of our Compass ?" Now as we are going rather deep into this Compass business to-night, I've brought along my old B.E.F. equipment compass, a good friend of mine on working parties. I'm not much catch with it, and it may be that you two know a sight more about the theory of the thing than I do.

Magog : Not guilty, me lud. I've scarcely ever been out of sight of houses.

Pilot : Well, I'm not competent to be technical after ten years ; and the folk who thought out what I have to hand on weren't up in the technique of a compass. You can guess that straight off from the fact that they talked of the Four Points, when a Compass has really thirty-two. What they meant, however, is plain enough : they were thinking of the Four Cardinal Points, N. S. E. W. ; which preside over the four quarters of the Compass card. To each of these cardinal points they gave a sort of analogy in ordinary life : and the whole thus amounted to four pointers in outlook and conduct which they wanted Toc H to incorporate.

First, there was the incessant struggle in a man as to enterprise and ambition. Christianity had long been interpreted as a sort of consolation race to be run by those hitherto unsuccessful. Placidity and contentment were to be its sign-manuals in every character it moulded ; and piety and inefficiency went hand in hand in popular estimation. Against such a belittlement, which would rob the churches of an integral truth, Toc H was to bind its men to a habit of enterprise. Religion was to run no danger of becoming merely a brake when it is truly the supreme incentive. They were to set themselves to succeed, "to be responsible," "to build bravely." Weakness, wobbleness of character, the tyranny of circumstances, passive acquiescence in failure, was not for them. They were to be old fashioned in their sense of duty, all out for their job, not ashamed of enthusiasm, nor hesitating to show that they cared, and cared deeply.

Gog : That's rather a tall order, isn't it ? I feel like being counted out at the end of the first round.

Pilot : Not if I know you. Remember that these aiming points are definitely ahead of us all. They are the course we steer, not our present whereabouts. The real issue is : Do you believe in this view-point on life for men or not ? It's got its distinct dangers, for ambition as a sole creed can be deadly. Did you know Dvorschagen's terrible picture called "Ave Cæsar" ? It was the first thing I ever saw that told me what war was : and war won't grow without a strong element of ambition in the soil.

On the other side there is a fine phrase from the old quarry which says that "They that know their God do exploits." We aren't only God's creatures : we are His workpeople, and a spirit of enterprise is a thing He likes to see. The parable of the Talents proves this clearly. It's not without encouragement to see what a lot we owe to men who pioneered with a really religious basis to their ambitions : Kelvin and Newton are obvious examples, but it is equally true of Scott and Oates and a long roll of explorers. All men everywhere have admired bravery ; and we may be pretty sure that God sees bravery as an ennobling thing. But the best bravery with Him is not of the cut-and-thrust kind. Our Elder Brethren didn't win V.C.s for the most part ; but they faced up to their duties, and didn't go back on God in mess or billet.*

I think it's also true to say that the whole growth of Toc H since then, whether locally or in London, or overseas, has called out courage of 22-carat kind. The structure as it stands is still in outline only ; and in great areas even this is barely traced. But put yourself down to think of the men who in city after city got the first tiny teams together, and reported cheerfully to a one-man Headquarters, and you will see the essence of Point I. Remember that they had come back from four years of nightmare, spent, aged, and some half-broken in mind and body, to all the disillusioning embitterment of a country apparently unheeding, and to a career delayed or now denied to them. The thing proposed was vague, and unlikely ; and at the very beginning, by a confusing counter-claim, the name of Talbot House had to be abandoned, and a nickname substituted which was virtually unknown to the Foundation membership.†

If the story of these first years could ever be written, it would show a spirit of devotion as genuine as that which has laid the foundations of any deep and abiding work in our stubborn soil. But if the English clay is stubborn, it is most retentive ; and Toc H will not easily be swept away. Indeed, this stability may become a danger to its spirit ; for safety and slackness are half-brothers. England gets choked with societies that outlive their usefulness, and simply cumber the ground. There are even examples which bear out the cynic's sentence that Societies are things which exist to defeat the intentions of their Founders.

* In the *Liber Vitæ* or Roll of the Elder Brethren of Toc H—those who are known to have worshipped in the Upper Room of Poperinghe—are five V.C.s and seventeen D.S.O.s among the five hundred names recorded. Colonel Frank Worthington's letter of November 27 1919 (quoted at the Central Council last April—see May JOURNAL, p. 189) is a clear clue to the consecrated source of their courage. Such examples showed that "acquiescence in evil is too high a price to pay for life."

† The name "Toc H" does not once occur in the original *Tales of Talbot House*, published in 1919. But a pocket Weymouth's New Testament, given to the Editor in Poperinghe, bears the date "T.H., April 28, 1918," and it may well be that "Toc H," in the slang of those days, was sometimes used in talking of it—just as "Ack H" is occasionally to be heard for All Hallows, but is not (and never ought to become) its recognised name.—ED.

There's no permanent safeguard for the spirit of a body of mortal men. Good Tradition, *esprit de corps*, prestige, a high standard of corporate conviction, all go to make up the soul of a Foundation, and to keep its spirit from change and decay. Dullness itself is deadly : Old Gladstone is reported to have said that it was not the Welsh hills but the Staines Road which knocked the heart out of his horses.

You are coming into Toc H now. But when your turn comes to lead it in any way, do please remember that no method founded on compromise will win the man we want. It's far better to be few and fit, than disintegrated and dilatory. Go for a true team discipline all the time, and lose men by asking too much of them,* rather than by having to persuade their half-heartedness. Go slow about picking your reinforcements, and put the whole thing bluntly before them before they take it on. Emphasise, of course, the truth that the best of us are liable to crash pretty badly, especially when we are most self-confident.

TUBBY.

(To be continued.)

A NOTE ON THE FOUR POINTS OF THE COMPASS

IN *Toc H under weigh* (p. 16) Peter Monic has reminded us of the origin of the "Four Points of the Compass"—in his opinion "the most important statement ever made about Toc H." Recently Tubby came upon the original draft of them, and forwarded a copy of this precious document, together with a brief note, to the Editor, as follows :—

"This scrap of pink paper, so unprepossessing in aspect, is the first to bear the Four Points of the Compass. Dick Sheppard, Alec Paterson and I met, some time in 1920, for Celebration and breakfast at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, as a sub-committee appointed to draw up a rule for Toc H. In the end, as usual, one man did it. Dick was too desperately busy ; Alec drew up Four Rules of Life (*see below*) ; and I drafted the *Four Points* on this scrap of paper. The Fourth, however, was a suggestion of 'Shi.'s' (Major H. Shiner, first Warden of Mark I, now of Petworth Branch). In this first draft, Aims and Methods remained distinct."

THE ORIGINAL FOUR POINTS.

(They are printed here so as to show, *in italics*, the revisions made in the original draft ; while phrases and words discarded are printed within brackets—ED.)

1. To promote an *active and* intelligent sense of brotherhood among men of all classes.
2. To stand for the *fullest development of the individual* [such conditions of livelihood] for every man as may assure him security and opportunity, *within the growing framework of Society*.
3. To *rest content with no less* [establish—press for] a standard of education *than* [which] will enable Everyman both to think and act with judgment and unselfishness, not only as a neighbour but as a citizen.
4. To recognise the dominating claims of the spiritual factor in human life [nature] and to found on them a principle of reconciliation between men *in the joy of* [and] service for the common good.

Our Methods are :—

- (1) The opening of a series of self-supporting Club-Hostels, where both residents and visiting members stand four-square in the unity of the common life.

* When Stephen Harding was Abbot of Citeaux, the sternness of his rule produced a dangerous decline in numbers ; until one day a troop of 30 young men, led by one aged 23 (Bernard of Clairvaux—as he subsequently became), presented themselves at the Abbey Gate, attracted by the very austerity which had repelled older men.

(2) The establishment of Central Club premises, which in addition to the ordinary recreation facilities, shall serve as a *depot* for the diffusion of a wider outlook and for the recruitment and training of social workers.

(3) To bring the expert to the Group, thus educating both ourselves and what public opinion we can influence.

(4) To spread the Gospel without preaching it.

ALEC PATERSON'S "FOUR RULES."

A.P.'s *Four Rules* were these :—

Each day (1) I will think for two minutes.

(2) I will read for twenty minutes.

(3) I will treat every fellow-servant as a brother, not asking from what school he came, or how his father earned his daily bread.

(4) I will build a new and glorious future for my country, believing that the best is yet to be.

THE PRESENT FORM OF THE "FOUR POINTS."

The present form of the Four Points, which differs considerably in statement but not in idea, from the original draft given above, was published in 1921 on the back of the Membership form, with this note :—"The following further statement of our aims and methods is a summary digest of the task assigned to Toc H, as we begin to see it. It requires confirmation by our First Annual Conference." (There is no record of an Annual Conference before that held at Grosvenor House for the Birthday of 1922, which passed the "Main Resolution," but did not tackle the "Four Points.") In the early printed versions "aims" and "methods" were run together —to the confusion of readers ; and four "methods" ("Interest," "Study," "Practice," "Responsibility"), all in reality sub-sections of Point I, were so heavily underlined that many members, then and since, mistook them for the chief "aims," the Four Points themselves. The Points themselves were once more clearly separated from what is really an explanatory note on each, by Lionel Bradgate in 1922, and given titles ("Fellowship," "Service," "Fairmindedness," "The Kingdom of God") devised by Alex Birkmire. In Tubby's *Litany concerning Toc H*, first used at the Birthday Thanksgiving of 1923 and constantly since then, a new summing-up of the four-fold aim of Toc H appeared, which can be taken to cover the Four Points in words now familiar to every member : as such they were used as the "text" for the four Episodes of the new Birthday Masque of 1928, entitled *The Compass*. It is worth while, for the sake of comparison with the original draft, to reprint the present form of the Four Points here, prefixing to each Point the title which Alex Birkmire and Tubby respectively have used to summarise it :—

I. (FELLOWSHIP—TO LOVE WIDELY) : *To open a series of self-supporting Branches throughout the country for the fostering of a new spirit between man and man.*

(These Branches develop their own life and line of work in accordance with the chief need of their locality. Their task is not to compete with existing organisations, but to supplement and reinforce them. They meet regularly for supper and discussion, exhibiting by the diversity of the members in origin, occupation and outlook, a spirit of reconciliation between the classes.) They are pledged :—

To a wide human *interest* in the lives and needs of their fellows.

To the *study* of local conditions, civic, social and religious, and to *challenge* their generation to seek in all things the mind of Christ.

To *mitigate* by habit of mind and word and deed the evils of class-consciousness.

To be *responsible* for the welcome and well-being of those commended to their friendship.

II. (SERVICE—TO BUILD BRAVELY) : *To establish a Headquarters Club in London and like Open Houses throughout the country in each great city, whence the elder may serve the younger, and the friendly the lonely.*

(Also, to make possible a Headquarters staff which can be at the service of the Movement as a whole, especially devoting its energies to the establishment of mutual respect and understanding between the student and the schoolboy on the one hand, and the young wage-earner and the industrial worker on the other.

III. (FAIRMINDEDNESS—TO THINK FAIRLY): *To bring the expert to the Group, to bear him and ask him questions : to listen hospitably and humbly to Everyman's story, and to help the truth to prevail.*

(The representative group thus educates itself, and what public opinion it can influence ; with the object always that from it social love may radiate, and the spirit of Class-war be exorcised, under the redemptive influence of the common loss.)

IV. (THE KINGDOM OF GOD—TO WITNESS HUMBLY): *To spread the Gospel without preaching it.*

THE " OBJECTS " IN THE ROYAL CHARTER.

The Royal Charter granted to Toc H and signed by H.M. the King on December 15, 1922, defines the four main " Objects " of Toc H (Section IV.). Without straining the words of the Charter, it will be noticed that these clauses in reality cover the Four Points in a different set of phrases. For example, it can surely be claimed that the manifestation of " the traditions of Christian fellowships and service " by all ranks during the Great War was a fine example of how men, self-forgetfully and under the greatest difficulties, can " spread the Gospel without preaching it." Let us, therefore, print the " Objects " from the Royal Charter, prefixing to each the appropriate " Point of the Compass " :—

1. (*Point IV.—To witness humbly.*)—To preserve amongst ex-Service men and to implant and preserve in others and transmit to future generations the traditions of Christian fellowship and service manifested by all ranks on active service during the Great War.

2. (*Point II.—To build bravely.*)—To encourage amongst the members of the Association the desire to perform, and to facilitate the performance of, all kinds of social service as between and for the benefit of all ranks of society.

3. (*Point I.—To love widely.*)—To promote among all people a wide human interest in the lives and needs of their fellows, and to foster in every man a sense of responsibility for the well-being of his fellow men.

4. (*Point III.—To think fairly.*)—To mitigate by habit of mind and word and deed the evils of class-consciousness, and to endeavour to create a body of public opinion free of all social antagonisms.

THE " MAIN RESOLUTION."

The first Birthday Conference, held at Grosvenor House on December 16, 1922, feeling that the Christian basis of the Toc H Family was not sufficiently stressed in the legal language of the Royal Charter, rose to their feet to pass solemnly and unanimously a resolution which ever since then has been known among us as " The Main Resolution." It was as solemnly reaffirmed by the Central Council at its annual meetings in 1923 and 1924, until, in 1925, the Royal Charter was so amended by the Privy Council as to leave no possible doubt about the Christian character of Toc H. The Main Resolution culminates with a summary of the Four Points :—

" Remembering with gratitude how God used the Old House to bring home to multitudes of men that behind the ebb and flow of things temporal stand the eternal realities, and to send them forth strengthened to fight at all costs for the setting up of His Kingdom upon earth ; we pledge ourselves to strive :—

" To listen now and always for the voice of God ; to know His Will revealed in Christ and to do it fearlessly, reckoning nothing of the world's opinion or its successes for ourselves or this our Family ; and towards this end

To THINK FAIRLY

To LOVE WIDELY

To WITNESS HUMBLY

To BUILD BRAVELY."

(B. B.)

OUR AMBASSADORS OVERSEAS

Harry Ellison in South Africa

East London,
Cape Province.

October 27, 1928.

ONCE more into the breach, O Journalists, for a belated attempt to bring you up to date with South African news! I left you last as my wife and I were just putting into Johannesburg in June—at 6.30 a.m.—where we were greeted by a dozen or so of the best, including dear “old” Bowyer, the Registrar, who failing an early bus had walked in some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the station. I found the same number of Groups which we started two years ago, though two new ones have taken the place of two which have ceased to function (temporarily, I think) and two of the Groups are already Branches. And the pessimists told me, when I left, that in a year’s time, knowing Johannesburg, there would not be one left. Presumably they did not know their Toc H quite so well. One Group got down to 3 members, who had to meet and smile at each other but never talked of giving up and, on the night I visited them, I initiated about 10 youngsters who had been on probation for the best part of a year. That is the spirit one finds everywhere in this land. They have got down to bedrock, and have begun to realise all that Toc H really means, and can now build solidly and bravely. They say that life in Johannesburg (with its altitude of 6,000 feet) moves too fast. Certainly it moved fast enough for an old gentleman of (no, perish the thought!). But it was a joyous, if strenuous, three weeks. I wish that I could tell you about “Mark I, South Africa” and its problems and hopes, and its notice-board, a sight for sore Toc H eyes, and about many other happenings. But space is limited, and after all, the strenuousness of this job has made all this news so unpardonably late that it may in some cases be out of date. My apologies to all the blokes out here for the delay, but they, at least, will appreciate some of the necessity for it in this wandering life. Johannesburg had just put through a great corporate job in providing (with no help from the Press and at the cost of some £2,000!) wireless headphones for everyone of the 1,200 (or 1,500) beds in the General Hospital there, with a wonderful transmission set (if that is the word?). It was opened by the Mayor, and it was reported that the Matron almost broke down as she found herself able to say “Good night” to every one of her huge family at once for the first time.

Then a run down to Natal again for the Natal Provincial Conference at Durban and (by chance of course!) for the First Test Match between South Africa and New Zealand—a bad day for New Zealand, though they finished with “honours easy” at the end of the three subsequent Tests, a thing which every good sportsman ought to know, except for the fact that the English Press, as far as I saw it, seem largely to have ignored this great series of matches. A few days breather on that wonderful South Coast was also rather welcome. And so back to Johannesburg for the S. African Registrars’ Conference, a big meeting; and then a dash by car to Witbank, an old Railway Mission branch of my own, where they are “groping” keenly, and back to Pretoria for two crowded days with those splendid “blokes” who, among other jobs, are almost entirely staffing the local “Pathfinders” (or Native Scouts). It is rather significant that in this land of acute “colour” problems, the Toc H spirit is beginning to express itself, and without any outside promptings, in the direction of service to the natives and to the coloured folk in many places. Teaching Braile to blind natives, showing Bioscopes in the native locations, or the running of a club for “Piccanins” by two old veteran soldiers, who think they have discovered a “black Mosquito” hope, who might prove a world-beater in the boxing line, are other directions in which Toc H is beginning to pull its weight. But the Toc H obligation “to think fairly” will inevitably tend to influence public opinion in this important respect as time goes on.

A day and a half's train journey, and then Rhodesia! First *Bulawayo* for three days with the fine lot of chaps there, and a stay with Tredgold, who now succeeds Col. Hugo Watson as Rhodesian Registrar. A small group of about 20 who are making good finely after many vicissitudes, and a dispiriting false start 2 years ago. I hope that their new room is proving a good one, and that the Grahamstown Sisters, who so nobly offered it, do not find too much stale tobacco smell on the morning after! We arrived at *Salisbury* at 10.30 p.m. and were greeted in riotous fashion. My wife proceeded in a dignified car, but I was raced in a rickshaw by 8 or 10 blokes (headed by "Wiry" Donkin, whom South Shields will remember) at imminent peril of my life. A really great welcome, as was the combined social on the following evening for Toc H and L.W.H.—one great Toc H-er, Chudleigh, late of Woolston, Southampton, having motored in 55 miles from Marandellas and home again after the meeting. The L.W.H. Group here is going very strong, as in so many other places out here, but the record of them—is it not written in the book of "the Log"? We had various services in the Cathedral on the Sunday, and great talks with Bishop Paget, who is Padre to the L.W.H., and a Group meeting on the Monday, and so on. Here, too, the Group have had a difficult time, but have now got their feet firm and hands busy, and are fine stuff. They won't like it, I know, but I can't help just one word of warm recognition of all the hard work which Col. Watson and his assistant, Serjeant Beck, have put into Toc H Rhodesia since we started there.

Umtali next, in its wonderful setting of mountains. A Group of 20 or more stalwarts with Ballantine as Hon. Sec. Their difficulty again the finding of jobs, but they have the family spirit and are ready to tackle anything and everything that comes along. Two days only there, but included in them a Group meeting, a family thanksgiving in the little church (organists be blowed—we get on finely without them, thank you!), a two hours *indaba* from midday till 2 p.m., when members dropped in and out and neglected their lunches, and last, but not least, two glorious motor drives and picnic teas. Hawkins, late of Mark IV, a welcome feature in the landscape (Toc H, not the mountains!). And so down to *Beira*, leaving my half-section at Umtali, a drop of 3,500 feet in 200 miles of railway down to the Portuguese coast. A great greeting in that place of warm hearts (and bodies!) from dear old Vennent and those splendidly loyal Toc H-ers. A great Toc H outpost this, doing some fine service and building bravely whatever the temperature. Meeting in each other's bedrooms till we had the great offer of a room in the Eastern Telegraph quarters. An occasional lion or crocodile on that best of golf-courses (ditto an aeroplane—but that is another story!), a delightful service in the little Memorial Church, a picnic (yet another) on the one and only Pungwe River; but, alas, no "Woodie" (Capt. Woodward), as that earliest of Beira members was at home on sick leave. It was pain and grief to have to leave them after three days' stay. We all cast our thoughts northward to Dar-es-Salaam and eastwards to Bombay, their next door Toc H neighbours.

On the way up country I had a ten minutes' talk to Dorset, station master at *Gondola* (long "o" please!), a keen Toc H enquirer, and left him papers. It will be great if a "Gropé" emerges there to link up Beira and Rhodesia. And so back on our joint tracks some 500 miles to *Que Que* (reminiscent in sound of the Gay Lord Quex and not of French grammar!), a great little group under the shadow of the Globe and Phoenix Gold Mine and with Rix, the manager, as Hon. Sec. They meet on the stage of the Bioscope with the curtain down, a fine idea for some other Groups. I have with me two wonderful Toc H lantern slides as a gift from Que Que, one for advertising my meetings at the Cinemas, and the other for Barkis's Museum at Headquarters. Zimbabwe ruins next, which we had never seen, a place of mystery and great buildings indeed. May the British Association next year on their visit help us to know if it was the centre of Solomon's gold mines or what else! Through *Bulawayo* again, and then Northward-ho. My wife to the Victoria Falls, and I beyond them for nigh 400 miles to another splendid Toc H outpost at *Broken Hill*. Three days there, including a Group meeting at

Padre Mussels' hospitable house, a welcome glimpse of a splendid lot of blokes, including Vincent, late of Auckland Park in Johannesburg ; a Toc H dinner fit for a Prince at Twear's restaurant, and more Group discussions after ; a 40 miles' drive out to the wonderful Mulungushi Falls and Power Station, with the Patron's Feathers high over the luncheon spot built for him two years ago ; a run over the Great Zinc Mine, and so back to *Livingstone*, with a big desire that all such outposts may be held in close remembrance by the family wherever they may be. Livingstone, with its difficult problems, but its big possibilities of combining all sections, official, railway, etc. ; a lovely spot as ever, but how much changed since I knew it first, some twenty years ago ! A small but good meeting, with the Governor presiding, in the Railway Institute ; a great talk with Latham, May and Eccles and their merry men ; and so on the few miles to the one and only Falls for a day or two's real peace. *Wankie* next on the way south, the centre of what may be one of the biggest coal fields in the world—when I knew it first years ago, a place of lions, elephants and malarial mosquitoes—now at night time, with its coke furnaces, carrying one's mind back to the heart of the "Black Country" at home. One of the best of meetings there after the Sunday evening service in the Mine Boarding Room—thanks largely to Padre Ram of the old Railway Mission—and the beginnings of a very hopeful "Grope," with A. D. Maclean as Acting Correspondent. Frank Hunt, late of Bridport Toc H, struggled down from the Mine Hospital and we had a great yarn next day before I left. And so at one fell swoop of about three days' train journey, to *Cape Town* once more early in September. A fine new Group at *Simonstown*, the Naval station, including townsfolk, dockyard men and sailors, with great hopes as a "distributing centre" of Toc H as the ships go round the coast on their "lawful occasions" ; a talk at the Varsity strongly backed by Sir Carruthers Beattie, the Principal, and much big "groping" now going on there with a famous Springbok three-quarter as correspondent ; a splendid combined service and meeting of all the Cape Groups at the Railway Institute ; a talk to the Church Guild at Padre Macgregor's Dutch Reformed Church ; visits to *Durbanville* and *Maitland* Groups (the former not near Durban, Mr. Editor !) ; the Toc H Lunch Club ; a glimpse of many old Toc H and other friends, including the beloved Archbishop and Mrs. Carter ; and so, with a memory of fourteen great days spent in three delightful Cape homes, off towards the Eastern Province for the last lap of this present pilgrimage. But, again, that is another story ; or rather, it will be continued in our next.

Yours in Toc H,

HARRY ELLISON.

Pat Leonard in the United States

Toc H, 1324, Eighteenth Street,

Washington, D.C.,

8th November, 1928.

My DEARS,

This time last year I was writing to you from the Antipodes, and I can hardly believe that I've had seven months at home, so quickly has the time flown between arriving and departing once more for "forrin" parts.

Of the voyage across I'll draw a discreet veil—not that I failed to contain myself, but simply because the good ship *Tuscania*, caught in the grip of an eighty-mile-an-hour gale, did everything but stand on its funnel—while I gave a life-like understudy of a corpse, as, indeed, did the majority of the passengers.

So violent was the wind against us that we were two days late into New York. For the last day or two we sailed on an even keel, and the wags among the ship's company, recovered of their *mal de mer*, talked of the voyage as a North Atlantic cruise, and spread the rumour that

we were posted as missing at Lloyd's and that the Cunard Company were drawing the insurance money,

I took advantage of the comparatively level decks to give a lantern talk on what is Toc H. For an hour and a half I laboured to explain the why and the wherefore of it, and to give a reason for the faith that is in us. As I wound up my peroration in a flood of eloquence, and the company sat enthralled (or stupefied) in a deathless hush, an old lady in the front row in a hoarse, penetrating whisper was heard to ask her neighbour, "But what is Toc H?"

I was still debating the answer when we glided out of the mist against the Cunard wharf in the Hudson River. A party of old friends of the 1925 trip were waiting to welcome me ashore and to help me through the customs. Whatever fears or apprehensions I may have had about the wisdom of my visit to the States were dispelled by the warmth of my welcome. That night I met the *Manhattan* Group who combined with Bob Wolf's Industrial Study Circle to hold a first-rate Guest-night at which I again showed the Toc H slides. The next day I went to *Philadelphia*, and found myself at once among friends.

The *Centre City* Group have a cosy semi-basement for their Headquarters. Down a few steps into a jolly wood-panelled room with a chapel beyond, and an excellent little kitchenette. There we held high revelry, and produced, with the help of an ultra-efficient central heating system, an atmosphere both nice and rare. Another day I visited the *North-eastern* Group, and they, too, have excellent quarters in a very central situation. Both Groups are going strong and have gotten the bug all right.

Yesterday, escaping from the Presidential Election enthusiasm, I came to *Washington*, and stepped right into the heart of Toc H. The Mark is first class, it might easily be mistaken for Mark IV or XIV!!! Sawbones has builded a far deeper and finer thing than in his humility he imagines. The hostellers are as good a bunch as can be found in any house, and the Guest-night which followed my arrival was a real treat to one who through long usage brings a critical eye to bear on meetings of the Family.

So lift up your hearts, my brothers, for the virility of Toc H (U.S.A.) and add your thanksgivings to mine for the promise of still greater things yet to be in this great land of perfect plumbing and of warm homes and warmer hearts.

Ever yours,
PAT.

Our Envoy to Persia

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company has been very anxious to do something effectual for the moral and spiritual welfare of its British employees in Persia, and last spring approached Toc H about the appointment of a padre and a layman, preferably both Toc H men, for this work. The layman was first found in the person of Commander Percival Gray, R.N., known affectionately to many of our members as "Sinbad." He sailed recently for South Africa on business, after a spell of work at H.Q. in London, but will take up his duties in Persia early next year. The Padre appointed is the Rev. R. T. Cripps, who introduced himself humorously to the Family Gathering in London on the Sunday afternoon of the Birthday Festival. His first duty has been to study Toc H life and work in various parts of this country, in order that he may get ideas for work among the young employees of the Company. He has already met "Sinbad" in London, and will join him at Abadan, the Company's big oil station, next year. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company employs about a thousand British people at Abadan, a considerable number of whom are young public school men. At present a padre gets over to them occasionally from Basra, but there is no resident chaplain or lay friend and adviser. This is a wonderful opening, not without much self-sacrifice, for the two men who have taken it on, and the wishes and prayers of the whole Family of Toc H should help constantly to support them.

"SILVER AND GOLD HAVE I NONE"

IN making their local Survey to discover useful work, a Group hit on the Hospital's need for an organised band of "accepted Blood Donors" to be available at short notice and the following is an instance of its practical working.

On Friday, November 16, a warning was received for "Donor Wanted" on Saturday about 5 p.m. and the next for duty were detailed. That night, when it was blowing a full gale (with telephone lines disorganised) and raining hard, a ring at the front door disclosed a messenger. His bike was brought in out of the wet and in the study he handed over a note with the words, "I am to take an answer back." The note said the bearer was the husband of a desperate case and would the donor (warned for 5 p.m. Saturday) be at the Hospital at 9 a.m. It was then 9.30 p.m.! Two donors, both Toc H members, were on time, and one was used for the transfusion.

At 2.15 p.m. another call came, "Can another donor be at the Hospital at 5 p.m. May be necessary for a serious operation now due?" The donor was on time and used.

On Wednesday 21st two more donors (one a probationer) attended for a second transfusion to the original woman patient. The surgeon had to prevent a scrap and settle the donor by tossing up. The probationer lost and is now "in waiting" for the next case.

Three transfusions in five days and the original case, instead of being in her grave, was allowed to sit up in a chair a few days over the fortnight.

FLOREAT.

MULTUM IN PARVO

★ A full report of the Birthday Festival in London on December 8-9 will appear in the January JOURNAL.

★ Hearty congratulations to the New BRANCHES, promoted by the Central Executive on December 3, viz.:—Belgravia (Transvaal), Beverley, Carlisle, Gloucester, Highgate, Kendal, Morecambe, Morpeth, Penzance, Petworth, Poynton, Pretoria (Transvaal), St. Albans, Sedbergh, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

★ We are extremely glad to report that Padre OWEN WATKINS, Deputy-Chaplain-General to the Forces, who retired from the Army this month, has been appointed joint Administrative Padre (with Padre Harold Hubbard) of Toc H, and co-opted on the Central Executive. Padre Watkins has recently been seriously ill and is ordered to take several months' holiday abroad. He hopes to join the staff about the end of April.

★ Padre ALAN COLTHURST (Huddersfield) has been offered and has accepted the post of Area Padre, South Yorks Area. He joins

the staff at Easter. The place where he will live is not yet decided.

★ Padre HAROLD BAGOT has arrived in England from Toc H Australia, as Padre for Salford and Westmorland Districts.

★ MONTY CALLIS (Manchester) now goes to Sheffield as Area Pilot for the Mexborough, Sheffield and Worksop Districts of the South Yorks Area.

★ "DUSTY MILLER resigns his position as an Area Secretary in January to go into training at Lincoln Theological College, and MONTY CALLIS will then take over as Secretary the Halifax, Huddersfield and Leeds Districts of the South Yorks Area (at present under Dusty's charge) and also the Central Yorks District now being formed.

★ LES ABDY, who has been working for some time at Headquarters, also goes into training at Lincoln Theological College next term.

★ Padre PAT LEONARD has been appointed Chaplain General (C. of E.) for the Boy Scout World Jamboree to be held at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, in July-August, 1929.

★ ENDOWMENTS for a full-time PADRE and LAYMAN are now available for Leicester. An offer of £5,000 for a Chaplaincy Endowment was contingent on a £5,000 endowment for a layman being raised; this is being provided from the Prince of Wales' Endowment Fund.

★ PAUL SLESSOR (Secretary, Keston Branch) is going to Malta on a Toc H mission in January.

★ *Secretaries' List: Alterations and Additions:*
(a) *New Groups:* ABERYSTWYTH, C. J. Morgan 11, Pier Street; ARMLEY & WORTLEY, E. Dufton, Jr., 19, Ramsey Street, Armley, Leeds; BATTLE, T. Weguelin, Upper Lake, Battle; BEMBRIDGE, G. B. Clark, 2, H.M. Coastguard Station, Foreland, Bembridge, I.O.W.; BETHNAL GREEN, L. Scarfe, 314, Wilmot Road, E.; BLYTON, G. Hawkins, Blyton, Gainsborough; BURLEY, L. N. Tobbell, 123, St. Michael's Lane, Burley Hill, Leeds; BURNLEY, J. B. Dickens, 104, Newhall Street, Burnley, Lancs.; BURWASH, B. D. N. Siminson, Burwash Rectory, Sussex; CHISWICK, E. T. Moldram, 45, Thornton Avenue, W.4; CLAY CROSS, G. Stoppard, 5, Stollard Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield; CLAYTON, L. H. Kay, 3, Taylor Street, Droylsden, Manchester; COLNE, W. D. Pye, 18, Glen Street, Colne, Lancs.; CRANBURY, P. Cotton, 1, Cranbury Terrace, Southampton; GUERNSEY, E. Chambers, Elizabeth College, Guernsey; HUCKNALL, F. W. Rhodes, "The Elms," Hucknall, Notts.; IBSTOCK, C. L. Eggington, 151, Melbourne Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire; LEISTON, J. W. Robinson, Lynton, Leiston, Suffolk; LOWESTOFT, W. S. M. Ducker, 66, High Street; PRESCOT, J. Lyon, 50, South Avenue, Prescot, Lancs.; RYDE, Lt.-Col. P. Murray, "Elmhurst," St. John's Park, Ryde, I.O.W.; SANDSEND, W. Matthews, Dunsley, near Whitby; SPILSBY, I. Caldwell, Offord House, Spilsby, Lincs.; UTTOXETER, C. Orme Bradley House; WALLASEY, A. E. Cotton, Leasowe Road; WEYMOUTH, S. J. Herbert, Waverley Studio, St. Thomas Street; WITHINGTON, C. T. Haworth, 2, Horsley Street, Manchester, S.E. *Overseas:* ADELAIDE (Cape Province East), W. S. Blacker, Box 9, Adelaide,

South Africa; DUNEDIN (N.Z.), Dr. E. F. Thomson, 109, Forbury Crescent, St. Clair; SAO PAOLO (Brazil), A. B. Henderson, c/o Sociedade Anonyma Frigorifico Anglo, Rua da Quitanda 10; WANGANUI (N.Z.), N. Parkes, P.O. Box 371.

(b) *Change of Secretary:* BEVERLEY, A. Taylor, 67, Norwood, Beverley; BRAMHALL, S. A. Raine, Strathmore, Bramhall Lane, BRISTOL, W. T. Henn, Toc H Mark IX, 29; St. Paul's Road, Clifton; BROMLEY, H. A. P. Stenning, "Beechwood," The Avenue, Orpington; "CADIES," J. C. Sharpe, 47a, Wilmot Road, Leyton, E.10; CHELSFIELD, A. E. Smith, "Tilford," Oxenden Wood Road; DERBY, S. Haynes, 93, Crewe Street; GLASGOW, P. Mitchell, 5, Canning Place; HANDSWORTH, S. W. Hill, 34, Grove Hill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham; MANCHESTER, W. H. Lythgoe, 6, Birch Polygon, Rusholme; MORTON, W. Parnham, Morton, Gainsborough; NEWCASTLE, J. R. Dickman, 105, Gerald Street, Banwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne; OXFORD, H. C. Turner, 36, Bartlemas Road; PRESTON, G. Summer, 8, Latham Street; RIVERSIDE, A. G. Llewellyn, 11, Heath Street, Riverside, Cardiff; SOUTH BANK, T. Cropper, 79, Victoria Road, Grangetown, Yorks. *Overseas:* LADYSMITH, S. Plumstead, Box 22; YPRES, T. Elvidge, 31, Basse Ville.

(c) *Change of Secretaries' Address:* CARRINGTON Secretary to 23, Regent Street, Nottingham; DARLINGTON Secretary to 21, Greenbank Crescent; DONCASTER Secretary to Y.M.C.A., Station Road; STREATHAM Secretary to 30, Kingsmead Avenue, Tooting, S.W.; YORK Secretary to Officers' Mess, 1st Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers, Infantry Barracks, Fulford Road.

(d) *Groups cancelled:* SUNDERLAND; SUEZ.

(e) *Correction:* LEYTONSTONE Secretary's address should end E.11. (*not* S.E.11).

(f) *L.W.H. Western Australia: New Group:* CLAREMONT, Miss E. Andrews, c/o University of Western Australia, Perth. *Change of Organising Secretary:* Miss M. A. Ridley, same address.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

London Federation

In the *Eastern District* BARKING held a dance on November 8, a Hospital Pound Day on November 24, and the Group Birthday on November 26. ILFORD has inaugurated Sunday evening "sing-songs" and has planned carol singing in aid of St. Dunstan's for Christmas week. LEYTONSTONE, which has established correspondence links with three Groups in Africa, records a midnight visit to *The Daily Mail*. RAYLEIGH, a "sprout" from SOUTHEND Branch, is busy with a flourishing Boys' Club. This Group recently organised a "Mile of Pennies" in aid of the local ambulance. The initial effort of the STEPNEY "Step-knees Conshirt-party" raised funds to cover the expenses of a boys' country outing. New "Grope" are BETHNAL GREEN and WOODFORD. Latest reports are "Groping vigorously."

The *South-Eastern District* is settling down to an extensive winter campaign. Number One of *The District News* has been published. A "District Diary" will avoid clashing of local arrangements in this district. LEWISHAM held a successful concert on November 8. Their Cripples' Parlour is flourishing. MARK XV (Woolwich) is working to enlarge the Branch. SIDCUP had Padre Brochner for its Birthday on November 8; "Broch" took some new songs with him. Good progress has been made with the Cottage Hospital subscription lists. A commemoration service was held in St. John's Church on Armistice Day.

A performance of "Hay Fever," arranged by ELTHAM was given by the Blackheath Amateur Dramatic Society on November 13, for the Endowment Fund. GREENWICH reports a great mixing and changing of officers and a strong push for the winter, while BELLINGHAM reports "doings" with the British Legion on November 15. DEPTFORD "Grope" got together for the first time on November 9—in a converted "pub." The "Grope" is being guided by "Tabby" and

"Stan" Mercer, late Greenwich. The *South-Eastern District* Guest-night was held on November 16, when Tubby was welcomed. After songs and coffee and the observance of "Light" Tubby gave a delightful and gripping account of Drake's voyages to South America. DEPTFORD was present in force and gained inspiration from his allusions to the part played by Deptford in the life of the *Golden Hind*, her sister ships and their crews. "Tosher" Elliot, from Calcutta, talked on Toc H in India, and Evans, from Malta, told of Toc H in Malta and in the Fleet. The evening concluded with Family Prayers by Tubby.

With the homegoing, on October 17 of Ted Radley, the KENNINGTON Branch lost the first of those who signed the petition for their Lamp. Ted's life of thirty-nine years was full of love and service. As a lad of seventeen he was a Sunday School teacher, later taking up Senior Bible Class work as Secretary and leader. As Secretary of the Sunday School Union Cricket Association, he played no small part in making that Association successful in holding young men in our Sunday Schools, when in many instances they would otherwise have drifted. His service in France brought him into Toc H a trained man, anxious to pull his weight, always willing to tackle any job. As Secretary of the Cornwall Club Council and Committee his work will long be remembered, while as leader of the junior section of the Quinn Square Club, his memory must always spur us on to better action. Kennington lose a worker and one whose friendship in the Branch and assistance in Committee will be missed. Truly—"We will remember him," the first of our post-war elder brethren.

The most important function of the past month in the *Southern District* was certainly a joint Guest-night of the Southern and South-Western districts with WANDSWORTH as the hosts and Tubby as the Guest. At his

very best, he inspired a large gathering with new vision of the need for Toc H overseas and of the challenge to Toc H at home. A short speech from a Toc H member on holiday from Ceylon was received with loud applause.

CROYDON report a Branch weekend at Pierhead House and that "Bunny" Abrahams, whose wedding—in addition to that of "Curly" Jefferson—is reported by *The Brothers' House*, is actively engaged as Secretary of the Croydon Council of Social Service. Croydon and NORWOOD are both busy collecting boots, shoes and stockings for children in the South Wales Mining Area. Norwood, in addition to already existing jobs, write of the visiting of young emigrants and their parents, and of the taking over of a boys' club.

Tubby was given a rousing "welcome home" at the *Western District* Guest-night at Regnal House on November 15, which was arranged in conjunction with the *North-Western District*. He gave vivid descriptions of South American life and told of some of the difficulties under which Toc H is carried

on overseas. The more lasting impression of the gathering was his heart-to-heart talk of the deeper problems of Toc H in London and its suburbs. ACTON reports an interesting innovation in the launching of its "Discovery Team," which has gone forth to seek out the open spaces. The Group had "Appy" at their beef-steak supper, after which he gave an excellent exposition of the Main Resolution. On Armistice Day the Group joined with the League of Nations Union and "Light" was observed in the presence of 2,700 people. EALING, which has pursued the study of "The England of To-morrow," observed Grand Light at its Birthday. The E.S.F.A. (*see October JOURNAL*) has been found of real help. CHISWICK is getting well off the mark and UXBRIDGE is looking forward to promotion.

In the *North-Western District* WILLESDEN Group celebrated its first Birthday on November 1 with a Corporate Celebration in the morning and food, frolic and song in the evening, with Padre Challen as speaker and Grand Light as a finale.

Home Counties Area

CANTERBURY celebrated its sixth Birthday on November 8, with Les Abdy and Gilbert Williams as speakers and a good muster of members from neighbouring units. Armistice Day was observed by a twenty-four-hour Vigil of the Lamp, a morning Service conducted by the Rev. A. S. Mayne, M.C., Padre of King's School Branch, an evening Service conducted by the Rev. G. H. Tubbs, and a Service by the Branch Padre at 10 p.m. During the day the Chapel was open for the use of the public.

FOLKESTONE, which is increasing its "stretcher-bearing" jobs, held a three-day show for the R.S.P.C.A. and a two-day show for the Waifs and Strays Society. In connection with this Society over 150 collecting boxes have been issued. The Dramatic Club produced Dickens' "Christmas Carol" on December 14. Armistice Day was observed by a Corporate Communion with the L.W.H.

at the Parish Church, the placing of a wreath on the War Memorial, a joint meeting in the Town Hall with the Folkestone Brotherhood in the afternoon and attendance at the War Memorial Service in the evening. The L.W.H. is maintaining progress.

ROCHESTER members have given up their rooms and have "retired to their own firesides to study what Toc H means." They boast a "real live Foundation member" and the optimistic tone of their report augurs well for the future. Rochester appreciates the help given by MAIDSTONE, GILLINGHAM and RAINHAM.

A *West Surrey District* Guest-night was held at WEYBRIDGE new H.Q. on November 24 when "Grantibus" was the Guest of the evening. Padre Budden represented the Branch at the Welfare of Youth Conference at Croydon in October. The activities of Weybridge include a collection of boots

and clothing for the South Wales miners and assisting at Sunday evening meetings for young people, the permanent Chairman of which, Mr. J. A. R. Cairns, the Thames Police Court Magistrate, will speak to the Branch on December 14. Among recent speakers at Branch meetings have been the Clerk of the local Council, the Chief of the Fire Brigade, and the Clerk to the Board of Guardians. The Branch Secretary, who resigned on November 1, is retaining the office of West Surrey District Secretary. GODALMING, recently promoted to Branch status, reports talks by a Railway Fireman member and the C. of E. Padre, and the visit of the Free Church Padre to PORTSMOUTH Group. Branch man-power has been applied in the following ways:—Honorary Secretary to local hospital contributory scheme, stewards for League of Nations fete and charity concerts, provision of a “ref” for a soccer match. Copies of the “Roll of Elder Brethren” have been deposited in Toc H corners in Parish and Wesleyan Churches and the JOURNAL is available at the Free Library. A Corporate Communion of C. of E. and Free Church members in their respective churches was a feature of Armistice Day, when the Branch joined in a united Church parade. A Guest-night for ladies was held on November 22 with a view to starting L.W.H.

GUILDFORD Group, which had “Grantsibus” as Guest on October 15, has arranged a good winter programme. Jobs, which are in two categories—regular and intermittent—have included the production, mainly by school-boys, of a “revue” by a member. The show is being taken to the Brookwood Mental Hospital, in connection with the *West Surrey District Scheme*.

FARNHAM, although a small Group, is concentrating on a collection of boots and clothing for South Wales miners, and has been responsible for the part organisation of the St. Dunstan’s Christmas Appeal. Man-power is finding an outlet in boys’ club leadership, secretarial work for the League of Nations Branch and committee work in connection with a Hospital Carnival.

Contact is being maintained with a man who has now found employment in Canada.

LEATHERHEAD, with an average attendance of 30, was given Group status at the District Committee meeting on October 27. Jobs are rolling in. They include the levelling of the school playing field for the Education Committee. Two members have given the use of their business premises as “dumps” for books and magazines for local institutions and for boots and clothing for South Wales. One member has been appointed Migration Officer for Surrey, and an assistant-scoutmaster has been provided for the local troop. A committee has been formed to discuss whether existing juvenile clubs need help or whether a Toc H boys’ club is needed. The newly-formed concert party is to perform at the Milner House Home for Neuroasthenic ex-Service men and at other institutions.

WOKING Group has had a talk from Superintendent Boshier, of the local police, and smells a job among young offenders. Work for the hospital contributory scheme keeps members busy, Sunday morning meetings for young people are being stewarded, and the Group quartette is getting in some good singing jobs. Contact was made with Frensham on November 3 and hopes are entertained of “spreading the Gospel” there.

In *Bedfordsire* KENSWORTH had a great re-union at its 6th Birthday on November 2, when Branches and Groups from Luton, Harpenden, Radlett, St. Albans, Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Park Street and Frogmore, Watford and Radlett L.W.H. attended, to the number of close to 200.

Tom Garaway paid a visit to BROXBOURNE on November 16, when the Branch had a good look forward. A special memorial service, with “Light,” was attended at St. Cuthbert’s on November 18 in connection with Armistice, which had been observed by a Vigil on November 11, and St. Margaret’s Church was visited on November 25. The probationers of the WALTHAM CROSS Group, among whom was Principal Moberley, of Bishop’s College, Cheshunt, were initiated by the Broxbourne Pilot on November 2.

East Anglia Area

COLCHESTER send a late report of a summer camp at Davyland Lodge, where helpful conferences were held. The winter's work is being well tackled, two boys' clubs, a scout troop and a cub pack going strong, and more jobs coming in from outside sources. Excitement runs high at CLACTON owing to the attaining of Branch status.

Recent speakers have included a District Police Officer from the Malay States on October 16, Ronnie Grant on October 23—"a real tonic"—and the Branch Padre's brother, on leave from Calabar, Nigeria, on October 30. Padre Ison conducted the memorial service on Armistice Day and the Branch attended evensong at St. Paul's Church.

West Midlands Area

From BIRMINGHAM comes news of a concert at the Grand Theatre on November 25 in aid of the Endowment Fund. Organised by Mark VI Entertainments Committee, the concert was "a huge success" with 3,000 people present, and showed a profit of a sum round about £130. Birmingham hopes to make a similar effort in the spring.

On Armistice Day, in the little underground Chapel at Mark VI, Birmingham, a 24-hour Vigil before the Lighted Lamp was kept. Branch members came in for half-hour spells and many early ones camped out in the Mark in order to attend the Communion Service.

The Mark is now thrown open to young fellows and girls on Sunday nights between 8 and 10 p.m.. Lozells is a very congested area and an average of 60 people avail themselves of the opportunity and greatly enjoy the informal musical evenings arranged there.

A rally of members of the *West Midlands* Branches and Groups of Toc H and L.W.H. was held at COVENTRY on November 3. A conference was held in St. Mary's Hall. Padre Royle, late Arca Padre of the West Midlands, spoke about the value of a Mark.

Miss E. Smith, Organising Secretary for L.W.H., Midlands, spoke on the relationship between Toc H and L.W.H. and Grantibus spoke about the future of Toc H.

Tubby preached an inspiring sermon to a crowded congregation in the Cathedral Church of St. Michael, and took "Light." He had to leave directly after the service, and wrote a farewell message while undergoing the unusual experience of waiting for a train.

The letter was sold by auction and realised for the Endowment Fund the sum of £2. A social arranged by the Coventry Branch, at which two ham sandwiches were auctioned for 10s. for the Endowment Fund, and a concert completed the programme.

UTTOXETER is now a Group, and LEAMINGTON and LYNE have begun to Grope.

A well attended district meeting was held at WEDNESFIELD, members coming from Oakengates, Walsall, Willenhall and Wolverhampton, Wednesfield acting as hosts.

A short service was held in the Parish Church, during which a banner, presented to Wednesfield by two local ladies, was dedicated.

The meeting in the Wesleyan Schools began with Light, following which the chairman (Councillor Dudley) welcomed the visitors. He congratulated WILLENHALL on their recent promotion to Group status, and WOLVERHAMPTON and WEDNESFIELD on becoming Branches. Wednesfield were particularly proud of the progress that Toc H had made in this district.

At a corporate Communion of YENTON Group at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, on All Saints' Day, the new banner of the Group was dedicated by Padre Arden (Group Padre) who was Celebrant.

On January 30 and 31, 1929, WEST BROMWICH Group are presenting a play by one of their probationers (Dr. Selwyn Edwards) entitled "The Jewel of the Himalayas." The play will be given in West Bromwich Town Hall; proceeds are for the Endowment Fund.

Wales

POR T TALBOT opened its first Birthday on November 10 with a service in St. Theodore's Church, when Grand Light was observed and an invigorating sermon was preached by Padre Hughes, the first padre of Port Talbot and now Cardiff Branch Padre. At the Birthday dinner in the Masonic Hall, at which over a hundred sat down, were the Mayor and several Councillors. The news in the middle of the dinner that Port Talbot had been promoted to Branch status was received with a tremendous roar of applause.

SWANSEA, another very live Group, held its Birthday on November 17. At the service in St. Mary's Church, where Grand Light was observed, the sermon was preached by the vicar and the blessing of the Rushlight was performed by the Chancellor, the Rev. J. H. Watkin-Jones, R.D. During the dinner at the Central Hotel the Mayor, "an infant of seven days," gave a most able exposition of the ideals of the movement.

A meeting was held at MONMOUTH on October 30, when Higgon (Area Secretary) spoke. A Group may be started there. Cardiff Branch has been at work at PONTYPRIDD, and LLANELLY is having the

Endowment Fund window exhibition the second week in January and for the whole of that month.

Ronnie Grant was at WREXHAM on November 29 and with Sawbones at BANGOR on November 30. Meetings are being held at both places with a view to arousing interest in the North, and hopes are entertained of NORTH and SOUTH WALES linking up in a Council for WALES.

COLWYN BAY celebrated its second Birthday on November 16, and numbered among its distinguished guests Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson. At a public meeting Lord Colwyn presided, supported by the Rev. A. J. Costain, M.A., Headmaster of Rydal, the founder of the Branch, and the vicar, Canon Clement R. Thomson, M.A. Light was conducted by Padre Osborne Gregory, and Last Post and Reveille were sounded. Messages were read from the General Secretary and Tubby. Sir William Robertson said he was glad Toc H locally was doing so much for the boys, and he thought Toc H could do a great deal to help the noble movement for world peace (*see page 492*). Padre Vincent Macbeth said homegoing prayers.

Scotland

GLASGOW reports a new venture—a boys' club at Hamiltonhill Welfare Centre, for boys from 14 to 18. For the past several months treats for cripple kiddies have been run fortnightly instead of monthly. Forty necessitous kiddies were entertained at Hallowe'en—a "howling" success. A service was

held in Hillhead Parish Church on Armistice Sunday conducted by the Branch Padre, and followed by a corporate communion.

ABERDEEN held a Service of Remembrance in the Memorial Hall on Armistice Day, with "Light," and calls by a bugler of the Gordon Highlanders, and Lament by the pipers.

Ireland, Northern Section

In BELFAST the work for the winter is in full swing. The outstanding event is the continued development of the News-boys' Club. At the voluntary classes at the prison the number of pupils is greater than last year. A musical instructor has been provided for the Borstal institution. Discussions during

October included "Minding your own Business" and "Training for Social Service." The Rev. W. J. McConnell preached at the Armistice Service. The L.W.H. joined with the Branch in a memorable evening. CARRICKFERGUS and LURGAN report progress, and Belfast has made a link with Downpatrick.

Much news from Branches and Groups at home and overseas is unavoidably held over this month.

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